# WASHINGTON STATE RETAIL SURVEY



2008 EDITION

# I. Introduction

## What is the Retail Survey?

The Retail Survey is an independent market research advisory publication that focuses solely on the Washington State retail market. In terms of geographical coverage, retail sector coverage, and sales trend data and analysis, it is believed to be the most comprehensive service of this type available on Washington's \$63 billion retail marketplace. The Survey is completely revised and updated annually.

# What is the Retail Survey Designed to Do?

The Retail Survey is designed to provide a comprehensive review of retail sales activity in every county and city in the State of Washington. In total, the Survey reports on the historical sales trends in each of over 300 individual market areas in Washington, based on sales activity of over 65,000 individual retail outlets. In addition to historical sales trend data, the Survey also includes a wide range of statistical measurements that evaluate the past performance of individual markets and the prospects for future growth.

The Retail Survey has been designed so that it can be used productively by a wide range of customers that find it necessary to track and analyze retail markets in Washington. Using the Survey, business executives with varied backgrounds and objectives can substantially improve their ability to make informed decisions.

- (1) The Independent Retailer, who needs to know how his or her local market is performing, can rely upon the Retail Survey to provide a detailed examination of sales activity by type of retail store, and what the prospects are for growth in the future. Using these sales data, market indices and rankings, the independent retailer is better prepared to forecast his/hers store's future performance.
- (2) The New-To-Market Retailer, who needs to know the size of the market, and long-term trends, can rely upon the Retail Survey to provide the market research that will to be needed to help launch a new business. Before the new-to-market retailer opens the door, short-term and long-term trends will have been identified and factored into the company's business plan. Fewer surprises substantially increase the chance of launching a successful new venture.

- (3) The Marketing Manager for a wholesaler or manufacturer, who wants to pinpoint the fastest growing markets, can rely upon the Retail Survey to decide where to concentrate advertising and promotion efforts to guarantee greatest impact. Assigning sales staff to geographical territories can be accomplished with a greater degree of confidence, and distribution channels can be reviewed and modified based on changing market conditions and trends.
- (4) Bankers and Financial Advisers use the Retail Survey data and analytical measurements as benchmarks to evaluate how their individual retail clients are performing compared to market averages, and identify problem areas at an earlier stage.
- (5) Government Officials, with responsibilities for urban planning, tax revenue forecasting and economic development, can quickly utilize the Retail Survey to compare the performance of their community with neighboring cities and counties, identify areas of weakness and competitive advantage, and develop more effective policy initiatives.
- (6) Providers of Business Services, such as accounting firms, real estate brokers, and advertising firms, can efficiently track retail trends in their market area, and identify retail sectors offering the best opportunities for new client development.
- (7) Chain store and Supermarket Executives, who need to plan site location strategies, can quickly narrow down the list of potential expansion locations, identify market areas that are presently under-served, and easily track their store's sales performance compared to the overall market.
- (8) Real Estate Appraisers, who are responsible for analyzing local market trends and their impact on real estate values for retail properties, use the Survey's extensive data and analysis to accurately identify supply and demand conditions that have important affects on property values.
- (9) Media Executives, in television, radio, and newspapers who are responsible for marketing and advertising strategies, use the Survey to keep track of their local retail market, identify fast-growing retail sectors to target for new advertising revenue, and compare local retail trends with surrounding areas.

The Survey's Unique Features

The Washington State Retail Survey has been, designed with several objectives in mind: (1) comprehensive coverage of the market (2) ease of use by a wide range of customers regardless of their professional background, and (3) the use of objective analytical measurements that improve the ability of customers to understand the retail sales trends in each market, and to quickly compare growth performance among various areas.

These objectives have resulted in the Retail Survey containing a number of unique features that deserve to be highlighted:

#### (1) Broad Coverage

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The Washington State Retail Survey provides detailed report on each of Washington's 39 counties and 290 cities in Washington. Retail sales data are broken down in detail for 30 separate retail store categories. This is believed to be the most comprehensive coverage of the Washington retail marketplace available anywhere.

#### (2) Four Key Market Measurements-

Performance Index Relative Strength Ratio Growth Persistence Index Star Rating

These four key market measurements allow Survey users to quickly understand the relative trends in each geographical market, and to accurately compare past performance and future prospects for growth among the markets of interest.

The Performance Ranking provides an easily understood measurement of one market's growth rate in the current year compared to all other markets in Washington. The rankings for each market range from 1 to 5, with 20% of the markets with the highest recent growth rate being assigned the 1 ranking.

The Relative Strength Ratio measures the long-term retail sales growth trend in one local market compared to growth fluctuations in statewide retail sales. Since the Ratio covers a period of the last five years, it provides Survey users with an easily understood comparison of longer-term sales growth trends, relative to statewide averages. The ratio is derived by dividing the percentage increase in retail sales in a specific county or city over the past five years by comparable percentage increases for total statewide retail sales.

The Growth Persistence Index measures the ability of a local market to consistently out-perform the overall market each year. This measurement is used to differentiate markets with steady, above average growth from those that experience wide fluctuations in their relative growth performance.

The Star Ratings provide Survey users with a clear assessment of a market's growth compared to all other markets in Washington. Markets that have grown the fastest over the last five years are given the five-star rating.

#### (3) Retail Sales Data

Individual market reports appearing in the Washington State Retail Survey contain eleven years of sale data for up to 30 individual retail store categories. The Retail Survey also contains data on Per Capita Retail Sales in each of the past eleven years for these same 30 retail store categories. These data provide the basis for preparing the analysis and rankings of each local market. Lastly, a Washington State Composite report is included in the Survey to provide an overview of aggregate retail sales activity for the entire state over the last eleven years, and can be used as a reference point when comparisons of statewide and local retail conditions are desired. The Washington State Composite report can be found in Section A of the Survey.

#### (4) Retail Sales Forecasts

Lastly, the Survey provides a one-year forecast of retail sales for each of Washington's 39 counties and 290 cities.

#### **Organization**

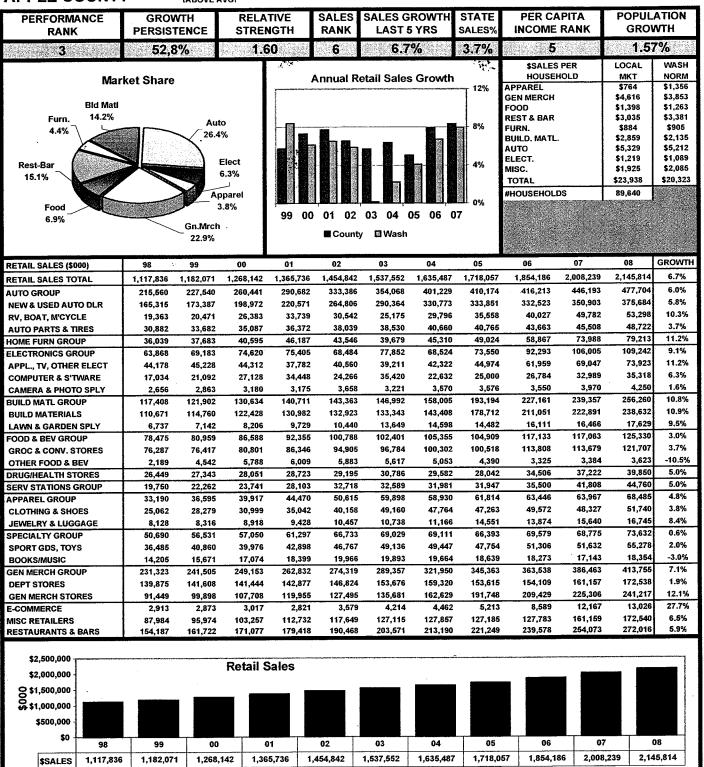
The Survey is organized so that users can easily find and use the data they require with a minimum of time and effort. The Survey is divided into the following sections:

- \* How to Use the Survey
- \* Section A- Counties Sales Reports
- \* Section B- Large Cities Sales Reports
- \* Section C- Smaller Cities Sales Reports
- \* Section D- Retail Sector Sales Reports
- \* Section E- Summary County Rankings & Indices
- \* Section F- Summary of City Rankings & Indices

RATING (ABOVE AVG)



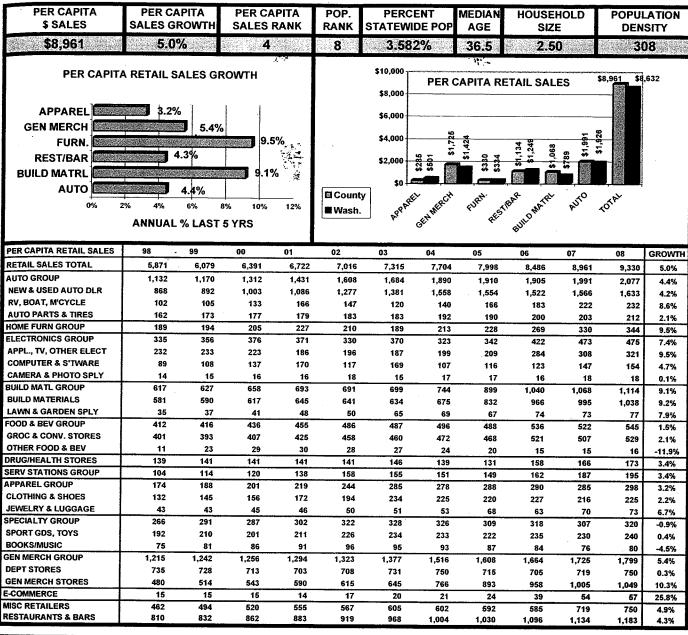
#### **SALES REPORT & RANKINGS**

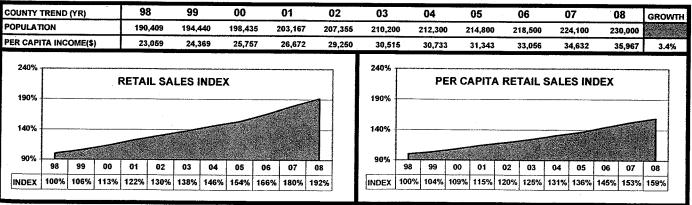


Summary: The Performance Rank of 3, measuring sales growth in the most recent year, is avg. Over the past 10 yrs, the Growth Persistence Index (52,8%) has been high, while the 5 yr Relative Strength Ratio of 1.60 is above the state norm of 1.0. In total sales, the county's rank is 6, while the Per Capita Sales Rank is 4. Population Growth has averaged 1.57% over the past 5 yrs, compared to a statewide norm of 1.20%

Per Capita Sales are \$8,961, and have been growing at an annual rate of 5.0%. By comparison, total retail sales have been growing at an annual rate of 6.7%. Note: Growth Rates in far right column are annual for period 2002-2007. Sales data for 2008 are forecasts and subject to future adjustment.

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For new customers we recommend that the How to Use section be reviewed prior to using the Survey so as to become familiar with the terms and analytical measurements appearing in the Survey.

Next, customers should spend about fifteen minutes reviewing each of the sections to become familiar with the various types of reports and their characteristics.

# II. Evaluating A Retail Market

The Washington Retail Survey's principal goal is to present as much accurate and relevant data and analysis as possible on each of Washington's local retail markets so that our customers can make informed and intelligent decisions based on their particular interests. Since each customer has his or her own specific needs, the manner in which the Survey will be used will take many forms. Even though individual needs and interests will vary among customers, all can benefit from using the Retail Survey.

#### **Choosing the Markets**

The first step in putting the Washington Retail Survey to practical use is to choose the market area or areas you wish to examine. The selection of the market(s) will of course depend upon the customer's particular objective. If your interests lie in only one specific market (one city, for example), your choice is simple...just turn to the appropriate page that contains that particular city's report. However, if your interests are broader, you can choose the markets to examine based on one or more criteria, such as geographical location (all cities in a specific county), by size (the top ten markets by volume of retail sales), or by various measurements of growth (all markets ranked No.1 or 2 for Performance). By using Section E and Section F, you're able to easily identify county and city markets that meet various types of selection criteria.

Or, you may begin by examining one of the Retail Sector Reports. For example, a quick review of the Clothing Sector Report in Section D will reveal the largest clothing store markets in Washington and their recent sales trends and performance, including four sector-specific graphs highlighting important trends within the sector.

These are but a few of the ways Survey users can narrow their field of interest. Since the Washington Retail Survey contains such a wide range of data, analysis, and cross comparisons among individual markets, users frequently develop their own unique methods to use the market reports to meet their individuals objectives.

# Interpreting The Data - An Example

At first glance, an individual market report may appear overwhelming, but one does not need any specific professional background to put the data to productive use. To get a better grasp on how to use and interpret a typical market report, one will be examined step-by-step. For this exercise, we have developed a hypothetical market report called "Apple County".

This fictitious report, used only for illustration, contains in every detail the type of information, data and analysis that can be found in an actual county report contained in the Washington Retail Survey. Please refer to the previous two pages containing this Apple County report.

#### Rankings and Indexes

Starting at the top of the page, we first see that Apple County has a Sales Rank of 6. This means that based on actual volume of total retail sales, Apple County is the sixth largest among Washington's 39 counties. In other words, the retail market in this county is among the largest in the state, measured in absolute terms.

Next, we find that the Per Capita Sales Rank is 4, or fourth highest among the 39 counties. From this ranking, we learn that, on average, retail sales are much higher than one would expect based on the county's population size. Several reasons could account for this high per capita sales activity. One, it could be due to residents from adjacent counties spending their income in retail stores in Apple County, thereby pushing up the level of per capita sales, since Apple County's per capita sales is calculated only on its own population base. Another reason may be that the income level in Apple County is significantly higher that those found in most other counties, allowing Apple County residents to spend more on a per person basis.

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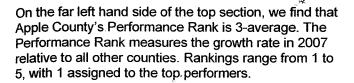
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ty, ce t ter ple sis. Next, refer to the Per Capita Income Ranking of 5, also on the top section of the report. From this ranking, we learn that Apple County has the fifth highest per capita income among the 39 counties. In short, the residents of Apple County are among the wealthiest in Washington, explaining in part why the retail sales per capita are so high.

#### **Recent Performance**



With a Performance Rank of 3- average, we are told that Apple County has experienced retail sales growth that falls within the midpoint range during the most recent year in which actual sales data are available. Although an important measurement of current performance, it does not tell anything about how Apple County has fared over the longer term.

#### **Long-Term Performance**

Now go to the Relative Strength Ratio. The Relative Strength Ratio for Apple County is 1.60. This is interpreted as meaning that Apple County retail sales have grown 60% faster than statewide retail sales over the five-year period from 2002 through 2007. From the Relative Strength Ratio, we can determine how well or poorly Apple County's growth has been compared to statewide trends over this five-year period.

#### **Future Prospects**

Although the Relative Strength Ratio is an important measurement of assessing long-term trends, we also want to know how consistent is the growth in Apple County. Put another way, in any given year, what has been the likelihood that Apple County would experience a growth a rate in retail sales that exceed the statewide average growth rate?

To answer this question, refer to the Growth Persistence Index for Apple County. We find that the Index is 52.8%, compared to a perfect score of 100%. From this we learn that Apple County has done reasonably well in out-performing statewide growth rates over a period of years. For a complete description of interpreting the Growth Persistence Index, please refer to the Statistical Methods section appearing later in this section.

To complete our review of the uppermost section of the report, we now turn to the graphic presentation on the left of the page, entitled Market Share. Here, we see that the Auto sector in Apple County is the leading sector, accounting for 26.4% of all retail sales in the county, based on actual 2007 sales data. The next graphic section provides an historical comparison of Apple County and statewide sales growth rates from 1998 through 2007.

To the far right is found a table comparing dollar retail sales per household for Apple County (Local Market Column) to comparable data for the state as a whole. This table tells us that total retail sales per household in Apple County amount to \$23,338, compared to a statewide norm of \$23,323. Overall, Apple County household retail spending is very close to statewide norms, although there are modest differences when individual categories are examined.

These differences in individual categories is likely due to some combination of less than satisfactory selection/price within the county, and more attractive pricing/selection and marketing in adjacent markets.

#### **Star Rating System**

Each county and city market report includes a composite star rating at the top of the page. This composite rating reflects the individual market's sales growth rate relative to all other markets, over the past five years.

The top 20% of markets, ranked by sales growth, receive the five star rating. The next 20% of markets earn four stars (above average), followed by three stars (average), two stars (below average), and one star (lowest), in increments of 20% based on the five-year sales growth ranking.

With the star rating system, Survey users receive a clear view of how a specific local market compares with all other markets in terms of long-term sales growth. From this quick review of the first page of Apple County report, we have a much better understanding of this market's size, growth trends, spending patterns, and overall standing relative to other counties in Washington. It is one of the largest counties in terms of absolute sales volume and per capita income. It has a long-term tendency to grow faster than statewide averages, and its persistence to out-perform the statewide growth is rated average.

Its retail sales per household is comparable to the state norm, and given the relatively high income level, indicates that Apple County has the potential of pulling this spending back into the local area with a proper mix of retail stores.

# Per Capita Retail Sales

To round out our overall understanding of the Apple County retail market, we must now examine several of the rankings displayed on the second page of the report. Based on 2007 data, Apple County has the 4th highest level of per capita sales, amounting to \$8,961. Over the past five years, the county's per capita sales have grown at an annual rate of 5.0%. At the bottom of the second page are two charts that compare the historical performance of total retail sales and per capita retail sales for Apple County.

When these charts are examined, we see that total retail sales have increased by 92% (Index=192) between 1998 and 2008. By comparison, per capita retail sales for Apple County have increased by 59% (Index=159) during this same time period.

Lastly, note that the Median Age (36.5 yrs. old) and Household Size (2.50). Both these data can be valuable in better understanding the buying habits and preferences of local area consumers, especially when compared to statewide norms found in the Washington Composite report (Section A).

Immediately below these market rankings you find two graphs. The first shows the percentage growth in Apple County per capita sales from 2002 through 2007. This

graph provides an excellent snapshot of per capita sales by major retail category. From this graph, we see that the furniture and building materials sectors experienced the highest growth, with the apparel sector showing the lowest growth.

The second graph presents per capita retail sales for each major retail sector. We see that the per capita retail sales for the general merchandise sector equals \$1,725 for Apple County, compared to a statewide norm for this same sector amounting to \$1,424. Overall, per capita sales in Apple County are slightly above the state norm.

The remaining section of this second page contains a year-by-year history of per capita retail sales for each retail sector, with the last column providing a calculation of the average annual growth rate for each category over the past 5 years of actual data (2002-2007).

Using these data one can quickly track the per capita retail sales, allowing Survey customers to quickly identify those sectors that are showing growth. For example, we see that per capita sales in the restaurant/bar sector have been growing at an annual rate of 4.3% over the past 5 years, and have increased from \$810 in 1998 to the current level of \$1,183.

# III. County and City Report

Each county and city report contains a wide range of data, market rankings and indices, all of which can be used to gain a better understanding of the trends that exist in each market area. The following briefly outlines the various components included in the Retail Survey Reports.

Sales Rank - A ranking based on the total retail sales in the county or city, as of the most recent year in which actual data are available. Forecasted data are not used to determine rankings. For counties, the rankings range from 1 (highest) to 39 (lowest). For cities ranking ranges from 1(highest) to 290 (lowest).

Per Capita Sales Rank- A ranking based on total 2007 retail sales in the county or city, divided by the 2007 population in that county or city. For counties, the rankings range from 1(highest) to 39(lowest). For cities ranking ranges from 1(highest) to 290(lowest).

Percent Statewide Sales- Calculated by dividing total retail sales in the county or city by the total retail sales in Washington, as of the most recent year in which actual data are available. This measures the "market

share" of a county or city relative to total retail sales in the state.

Per Capita Income Rank- Measures the average per person income level in each county, and is used as an indicator of consumer purchasing power. It is especially useful when comparing income levels between two or more counties with significantly different levels of population. The rankings range from 1(highest) to 39(lowest).

Sales Growth-Last 5 Years- Calculation of the compound annual rate of retail sales growth for the period 2002 through 2007.

Relative Strength Ratio - A measurement of the five-year sales growth (2002-2007) trend in a city or county compared to the sales growth trend statewide. An index of 1.25 can be interpreted as meaning that during the past five years, retail sales in the county or city grew 25% faster than the statewide average. An index of 2.35 would be interpreted to mean that retail sales in that local market have grown 135% faster than the state norm. Conversely, a Ratio of .85 would mean

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that the local market grew slower than the statewide average...in this example only 85% of the statewide average.

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Growth Persistence - An evaluation of a county/city's ability to consistently out-perform statewide growth trends. This index ranges from 100% (highest) to 0% (lowest). Please see the Statistical Measures section

for detailed explanation.

Performance Rank- A ranking of the percentage growth in retail sales for the most recent year that actual data are available. The rankings range from 1(highest) to 5 (lowest). After all markets are ranked based on percentage growth, numerical rankings are assigned as follows:

## PERFORMANCE RANKINGS

PERFORM	MANCE RANKS-COUNTIES	PERFO	DRMANCE RANKS-CITIES
TOP 8	RANK 1 (HIGHEST)	TOP 58	RANK 1 (HIGHEST)
NEXT 8 RANK	RANK 2 (ABOVE AVERAGE)	NEXT 58	RANK 2 (ABOVE AVERAGE)
NEXT 8 RANK	RANK 3 (AVERAGE)	NEXT 58	RANK 3 (AVERAGE)
NEXT 8 RANK	RANK 4 (BELOW AVERAGE)	NEXT 58	RANK 4 (BELOW AVERAGE)
LOWEST 7	RANK 5 (LOWEST)	LOWEST 58	RANK 5 (LOWEST)

Retail Sales (Actual) - Presented for a ten-year time frame, for each type of retail store. Note that the last column provides compound annual growth rates for the past 5 years in which actual data are available, for each retail store category. When there are no sales data for a particular category, it is due to no sales in that particular year, or that data are suppressed to avoid divulging data for a particular retailer. When 5 years of actual data are not available, compound annual growth rates may be calculated using a shorter time frame, and is noted in the Summary section found at the bottom of the report.

Retail Sales (Forecasts) - For each county, city, and retail sector report, retail sales forecasts are prepared for the most recent year under review. These sales forecasts are not used to calculating the growth rates appearing in the far right column of each sales report.

**Population Growth** - The actual percentage growth in population in a city or county for the most recent five-year period 2002-2007.

Population Density - For each county, shows the number of people living in the area, per square mile. The figure is calculated by dividing the county's current year population by total square miles in the county. When used in a city report, it refers to the Population Density in that particular city.

Market Share Graph - A graphic breakdown of retail sales by eight major retail categories. The percentage breakdowns are based on actual retail sales for the current year.

Sales Growth Graph - A history of the percentage change in a county or city's actual retail sales
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compared to statewide growth rates.

Growth Rate - A calculation of the annual compound rate of growth of retail sales during the most recent five years in which actual data are available. When 5 years of actual data are not available, compound annual growth rates may be calculated using a shorter time frame, and are noted in the Summary section found at the bottom of the report. Growth rate calculations do not include sales projections.

Per Capita \$ Sales - A measurement of the per person retail sales for each county or city. It is calculated by dividing sales data by the 2007 population in the county or city. This measurement provides a means to compare sales volumes between two market area that have significantly different populations, since it puts each market area on a relatively equal basis, regardless of population size. Data are rounded to the nearest dollar.

**Median Age -** The median age of the county's or city's population.

**Household Size** - The average number of people in each household in the county or city.

**Population Rank** - A ranking based on the 2007 total population of each county or city. County rankings range from 1(highest) to 39 (lowest). City rankings range from 1(highest) to 290 (lowest).

**Population Trend Data** - A statistical summary of county and city population data for the past eleven years.

Per Capita Income Trend Data -A statistical summary
WASHINGTON RETAIL SURVEY

of county per capita income data for the past eleven years.

Per Capita Sales Growth - A calculation of the annual compound rate of growth of per capita retail sales during the most recent five years in which actual data are available. When 5 years of actual data are not available, compound annual growth rates may be calculated using a shorter time frame. Growth rates calculations do not include sales projections.

Per Capita Sales Graphs - By retail category, two graphs that show absolute \$ amounts as well as annual growth rates over the past five years.

**Percent Statewide Population** –Measures the percentage of statewide population that is located within the particular city or county.

**County Identifiers** - Immediately following the name of each city in the top line of each city report is the name of the county in which that city is located.

Sales Per Household Table - For each major retail sector, this table measures the dollar retail sales per household. The table compares these data for the local market with comparable data representing the statewide norm. They are calculated by dividing 2008 sector retail sales in a market by the current number of households within that market. By comparing the statewide data to the local market data, Survey users can identify important local market imbalances that point to either strengths or weaknesses in the local market. For example, if the table shows that a local market's apparel sales per household are significantly lower than the state norm, it may indicate that the existing local apparel stores are not adequately serving the local population, and thereby encouraging these consumers to shop outside this local market.

Conversely, if apparel store sales per household are much higher than the state norm, it may indicate that the local market is attracting large numbers of shoppers from outside the immediate local market.

# IV. Retail Sector Reports

In many respects, the Retail Sector Reports have a format similar to that found in City and County Reports, although the purpose is really quite different. The main objective of the Sector Reports is to give Survey user an overview of a specific retail sector, and to show how that sector has performed over the past 11 years compared to other retail sectors.

The Survey contains Sector Reports on twelve major retail sectors, and these are especially helpful in tracking growth performance for similar types of stores in each major county of the state. For example, by scanning the Apparel sector report, you might find that this sector has been assigned an average Growth Persistence Index, represents 1.77% of total retail sales in Washington, and its Relative Strength Index over the past five years is 1.2, or 20% higher than the statewide average for all retail sales.

The sector report may also show that apparel stores in Walla Walla Co. have had the highest growth rates in recent years, while stores in Adams Co. have had the lowest growth.

By quickly scanning the growth column on the right side of each page, you will be able to easily see how each of these counties have performed in terms of sales growth. Please refer to one of the Sector Reports in Section E for an example of these specialized reports.

Components of each Retail Sector Report include:

Growth Persistence - An evaluation of a retail sector's ability to consistently out-perform statewide growth trends. Index ranges from 100% (highest) to 0% (lowest). See Statistical Measures section for detailed explanation.

Relative Strength Ratio - A measurement of the fiveyear sales growth trend of a retail sector compared to the statewide sales growth trend for all sectors. A ratio of 1.25 can be interpreted as meaning that during the past five years, retail sales for that specific sector grew 25% faster than the statewide average for all sectors.

Conversely, a ratio of .85 would mean that the sector grew slower than the statewide average...in this example only 85% of the statewide average.

Percent Total Retail Sales - Calculated by dividing total retail sales in that specific sector by the total retail sales in Washington, as of the current year. This measures the "market share" of a sector relative to total retail sales in the state.

Sales Graphs- Two graphs showing the long-term trend line for sector retail sales, and the annual growth rates for the sector.

Retail Sales (Actual) - Presented for ten-year time frame, for each county. Note that the last column provides compound annual growth rates for the past 5 years in which actual data are available.

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Retail Sales (Forecasts) - For each sector, retail sales forecasts are prepared for the most recent year under review. These sales forecasts are not used to

calculating the growth rates appearing in the far right column of each sales report.

# V. Statistical Methods

Using what is believed to be the most timely, accurate and unbiased data available on retail trends, the Washington Retail Survey analyzes these data and presents a number of rankings and indices that have proven to be important measurements of market performance. Due to their uniqueness and analytical importance, two of these deserve special attention. To insure that customers can fully understand the rationale and construction of these analytical techniques, each one is described below.

Growth Persistence Index - Growth can be measured in many ways, depending on the specific analytical objective. With this index, the objective is to identify those retail markets that have a consistent ability to grow faster than the state as a whole, based on year-by-year performance. Some markets show strong surges in retail sales growth in one or two years, followed by periods of below average growth.

Conversely, other markets experience moderate (but still above average) growth year after year. When analyzing any specific retail market, Survey users will undoubtedly want to examine not only its ability to grow, but also the consistently of that growth. If a market is prone to wide and unpredictable swings in growth, a Survey user will want to be alerted to this fact. Using the past nine years growth rates for county/city markets and the statewide market, a calculation is made to determine the number of subsequent years in which a county, city, or retail

sector market out-performed the statewide growth rate. The result of these calculations is the basis for the Growth Persistence Index.

Therefore, a local market that has experienced sales growth above the statewide average for every one of the last ten years would be given a perfect score of 36. Conversely, the example of Apple County used here shows a score of 19 out of a possible perfect score of 36. The Growth Persistence Index, in this example, is then calculated by dividing the actual score (19) by the highest possible score (36). The resulting Index becomes 52.8%.

Among Washington's 290 communities and 39 counties, it is rare for a specific local market to outperform the statewide average growth rate for nine years in a row, earning a Growth Persistence Index of 100%. From a practical standpoint, a local market that earns a Growth Persistence Index of 70% and above is performing extremely well, and is characterized as a "strong" market. Markets with Growth Persistence Index's between 60% and 69% are considered "above average", while markets with indexes ranging from 40% to 59% are characterized as "average".

Markets with an index between 20% and 39% are "below average", while markets with indexes below 20% are termed "weak" for this measurement. Using our fictitious Apple County as an example, we can demonstrate the calculation of the index:

#### **CALCULATION OF GROWTH PERSISTENCE INDEX**

YEAR	STATEWIDE GROWTH RATES	APPLE COUNTY GROWTH RATES	NUMBER OF SUCCEEDING YEARS COUNTY GROWTH GREATER THAN STATE
1999	2.8%	6.6%	3
2000	5.1%	1.6%	3
2001	8.4%	2.0%	3
2002	6.5%	4.7%	3
2003	7.1%	9.9%	2
2004	6.5%	2.7%	2
2005	0.4%	-4.4%	2
2006	3.4%	4.0%	1
2007	5.0%	5.3%	0 Total = 19

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Retail Sales Forecasts - Using the statistical forecasting technique referred to as exponential smoothing, historical trends over the most recent tenyear period are evaluated using six computer-forecasting models, and the resulting trend characteristics are then extrapolated into the future. In using the forecasts contained in the Survey, customers should keep in mind that forecasts are never perfect. In the Survey, the forecasts rely upon historical trend.

characteristics. The Survey makes no attempt to predict future events that may have a significant impact on retail sales volume.

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Each county and city report contains detailed one-year forecasts of retail sales for each retail category. The forecast data are rounded, which may cause column data not to equal totals. These same forecasts are also incorporated into each of the Retail Sector Reports.

# **Glossary of Terms**

**Apparel Stores**: This broad group includes outlets primarily engaged in the retail sale of new clothing and accessories.

Appliances, TV, Other Electronics: Retail Outlets that offer household appliances, consumer electronics, computers and software, radios and other audio equipment are included in this category.

Auto Dealers – New & Used: Retailers that are predominantly involved in the sale of new and used automobiles is included here. Often, these retailers also sell automobile parts.

Auto Group: This broad group is a combination of New and Used Auto Dealers; Auto Supplies and Parts and Recreational Vehicles, Boats, & Motorcycles.

Auto Parts & Tires: These retailers are primarily involved in the sale of a variety of auto parts and tires. Auto repair services are also sometimes provided.

**Building Materials:** Outlets primarily retailing lumber, building materials, door and window products, and masonry materials to both consumers and construction contractors are included in this category.

Building Material Group: This broad group is a combination of the following categories of retailers: Lumber and Building Materials, Hardware Stores, Garden Supply stores, Home Centers, Paint, Glass and Wallpaper outlets, as well as other retailers specializing in such items as plumbing and electrical supplies.

Camera & Photo Supply: Engaged in retailing new cameras, photographic equipment, and photographic supplies or retailing new cameras and photographic equipment in combination with activities, such as repair services and film developing.

Clothing & Shoes: Retailers primarily engaged in the COPYRIGHT 2008 BY EUREKA GROUP

sale of women's, men's, children's, and or family apparel and/or shoes.

City: An area that has officially been incorporated under the laws of Washington as a city. From time to time, city boundaries do change, causing some change in the amount of retail activity, and population credited to a particular city.

**County:** Washington has 39 counties, which are the primary political and administrative subdivisions of the state.

Current Year: Refers to that year in which actual (as opposed to forecasted) sales and outlet data are available for a particular city or county market.

Computers & Software: Retailers engaged in the sale of new computers, computer peripherals, and prepackaged computer software without retailing other consumer-type electronic products or office equipment, office furniture and office supplies; or retailing these new products in combination with repair and support services.

Department Stores: establishments known as department stores that have separate departments for various merchandise lines, such as apparel, jewelry, home furnishings, and linens, each with separate cash registers and sales associates. Department stores in this industry generally do not have central customer checkout and cash register facilities.

Drug & Health Care Store Group: These outlets are engaged in the retail sales of prescription drugs, proprietary drugs, and non-prescription medicines. These outlets usually also offer a range of related products, such as personal care items, stationery, and novelties. Due to data collection and reporting limitations, sales for this category do not include the retail sale of prescription drugs.

Electronics Group: Engaged in retailing one or more of the following: (1) retailing an array of new household-type appliances and consumer-type electronic products, such as radios, televisions, and computers; (2) specializing in retailing a single line of new consumer-type electronic products (except computers); (3) retailing these new products in combination with repair services, and (4) prerecorded audio and videotapes, compact discs (CDs), digital video discs (DVDs).

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**E-Commerce:** Engaged in retailing all types of merchandise using non-store means, such as catalogs, toll free telephone numbers, or electronic media, such as interactive television or computer. Included in this industry are establishments primarily engaged in retailing from catalog showrooms of mail-order houses.

**Food & Beverage Group**: retailers primarily engaged in retailing food and beverages merchandise from fixed point-of-sale locations.

**General Merchandise Group**: Includes department stores, discount department stores, and warehouse clubs.

Grocery & Convenience Stores: Includes food stores offering a wide range of grocery products for retail sale, as well as smaller stores offering a limited line of food products. Due to data collection limitations, sales of food for home consumption are not included. As such, total retail sales for this category are understated.

Growth Rate: In city, county, and retail sector reports, growth rate figures in the far right column refer to the compound annual rate of change over the last five years in which actual data are available. The growth rate calculation does not include forecasted data.

Home Furnishings Group: Included within this category are retailers engaged in retailing new furniture, such as household furniture (e.g., baby furniture box springs and mattresses) and outdoor furniture; home furnishings, or floor coverings.

Jewelry & Luggage Stores: Outlets specializing in the retailing of one or more of the following items: (1) new jewelry (except costume jewelry); (2) new sterling and

plated silverware; and (3) new watches and clocks. are included within this category. Also included are stores that retail new luggage, briefcases, trunks, or these new products in combination with a general line of leather items (except leather apparel), such as belts, gloves, and handbags.

**Misc.** Retailers: This broad category includes stores with unique characteristics like florists, used merchandise stores, and pet and pet supply stores as well as other store retailers.

**N.A.**: Data not available because the city had not yet been incorporated, or because publication of data may result in the release of confidential information on a specific retail firm, or for other reasons that make data unavailable.

Other Food & Beverage Stores: This category includes retailers offering a limited line of specialty food items, such as fruit & vegetable stores, meat markets, and fish & seafood markets.

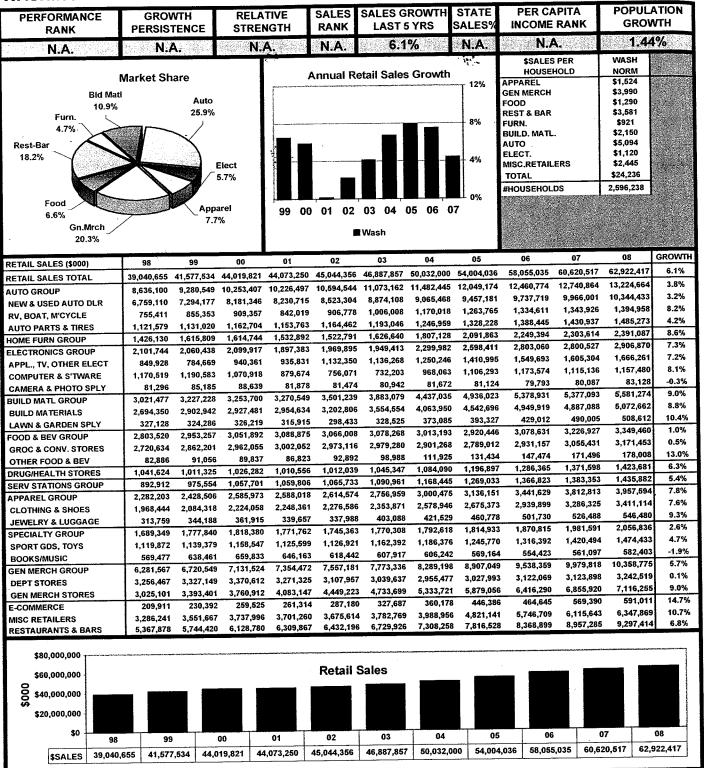
**Restaurants/Bars:** Eating and drinking places offering either/or alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits) and meals for on-premises consumption.

Retail Sales: Sales include all retail transactions subject to Washington's sales tax. Major transactions that are not included in the Survey data are certain food for home consumption, prescription medicines, and auto fuel.

Service Stations: Retailers primarily engaged in the sale of gasoline and/or diesel fuel are included in this category. These retailers also frequently sell related auto parts and offer repair service. They may also offer a limited line of packaged and prepared convenience food.

**Specialty Group**: This broad category includes such retailers as Sporting Goods, toy stores, or other specific leisure activities, such as needlework and musical instruments. Book stores are also included in this group.

#### **SALES REPORT & RANKINGS**



Summary: During the past five years, total state retail sales have grown at an annual rate of 6.1%. The Auto Sector has the highest market share, amounting to 25.9%, followed by the General Merchandise Sector at 20.3%. Statewide retail sales per household equal \$24,236, led by the auto sector with sales of \$5.094.

Per Capita Sales are \$9,343, and have been growing at an annual rate of 4.6%. Statewide annual population growth over the past five years has been 1.4%. Note: Growth Rates in far right column are annual for period 2002-2007. Sales data for 2008 are forecasts and subject to future adjustment.

#### **SALES REPORT & RANKINGS**

1,057

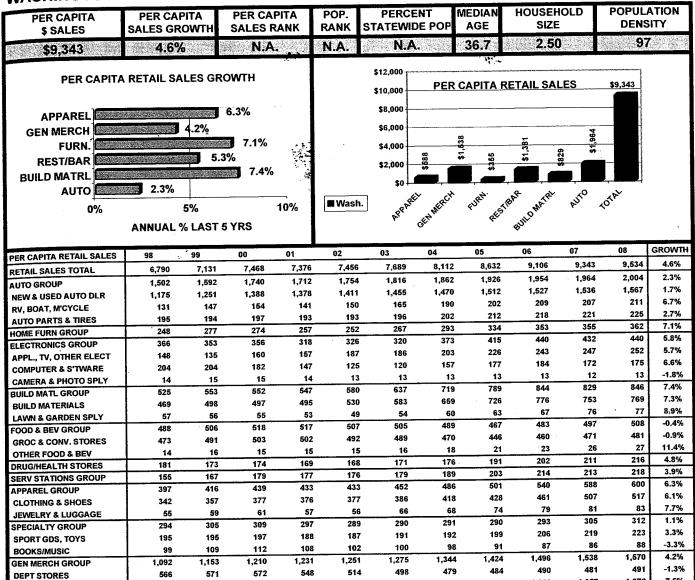
1,006

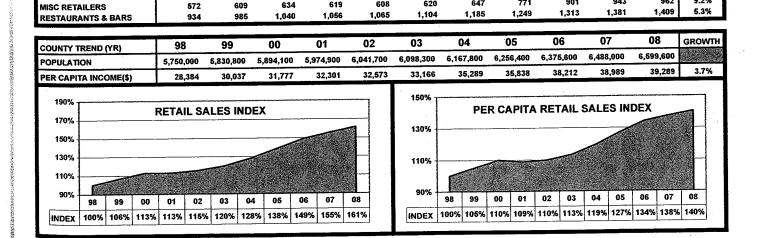
1,078

7.5%

13.0%

9.2%





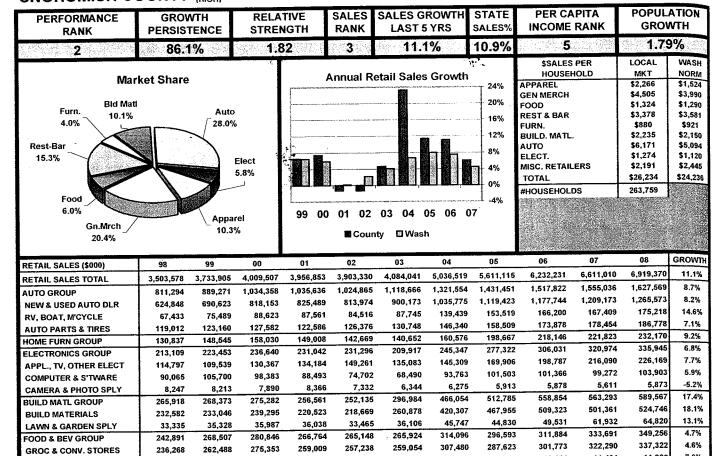
**GEN MERCH STORES** 

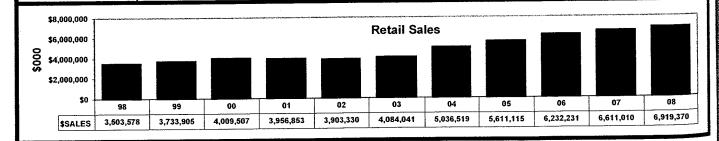
E-COMMERCE

#### RATING **SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

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## SALES REPORT & RANKINGS





6,616

111,233

96,078

297,021

254,428

42.593

164,191

121.981

42,210

837,505

337.870

499.635

25,968

341,695

655,202

6.870

96,128

73,161

265.428

224,612

40,816

155.327

115.755

39,573

597.022

306,531

290,491

320,503

528.141

16,188

8,970

126.685

98.335

404.602

345,947

58.655

171,457

134.741

36,716

922,751

342,802

579,948

35 451

409,843

725.172

10,111

142,100

105,276

490,424

419,062

71.362

182.358

145,337

37,021

1.059.511

364.381

695,130

41,826

512,066

785,932

Summary: The Performance Rank of 2, measuring sales growth in the most recent year, is above avg. Over the past 10 yrs, the Growth Persistence Index (86.1%) has been high, while the 5 yr Relative Strength Ratio of 1.82 is above the state norm of 1.0. In total sales, the county's rank is 3, while the Per Capita Sales Rank is 4. Population Growth has averaged 1.79% over the past 5 yrs, compared to a statewide norm of 1.44%

236,268

6.623

97.167

62,230

205.047

171,568

33,479

149,352

112,091

37,261

634,531

376,796

257,735

267.575

416,737

6.892

262,488

6,018

92,164

65,580

218,926

185.458

33,468

156.302

111,065

45,238

661,426

376.877

284,549

297,058

437,869

6.431

5,493

96,942

69,272

240.229

205.691

34,539

157.580

111,454

46,126

672,314

369,215

303,099

313,767

467,238

7.009

7,755

91,623

70.296

248,352

213,409

34,943

149,644

104,930

44,714

636,098

342,966

293,131

321,244

489,729

10,857

7.910

85,677

71.572

254,103

220,385

33,718

147,510

107,406

40,104

608.983

318,142

290.841

14.133

305.901

499 340

Per Capita Sales are \$9,633, and have been growing at an annual rate of 9.2%. By comparison, total retail sales have been growing at an annual rate of 11.1%. Note: Growth Rates in far right column are annual for period 2002-2007. Sales data for 2008 are forecasts and subject to future adjustment.

11,401

151.914

111,454

570,994

489,500

81,495

194.583

157,297

37.287

1,135,398

369,315

766,083

48,404

552,201

851,242

11,933

159,000

116,653

597,628

512.332

85.296

203,660

164,634

39.026

1,188,357

386,541

801,815

50.662

577.958

890,947

7.6%

12.1%

9.3%

17.6%

17.3%

19.3%

5.7%

7.9%

-1.4%

13 3%

3.0%

21.4%

27.9%

12.5%

11.3%

OTHER FOOD & BEV

**CLOTHING & SHOES** 

SPECIALTY GROUP

SPORT GDS, TOYS

GEN MERCH GROUP

**GEN MERCH STORES** 

**RESTAURANTS & BARS** 

BOOKS/MUSIC

**DEPT STORES** 

E-COMMERCE

MISC RETAILERS

JEWELRY & LUGGAGE

APPAREL GROUP

DRUG/HEALTH STORES

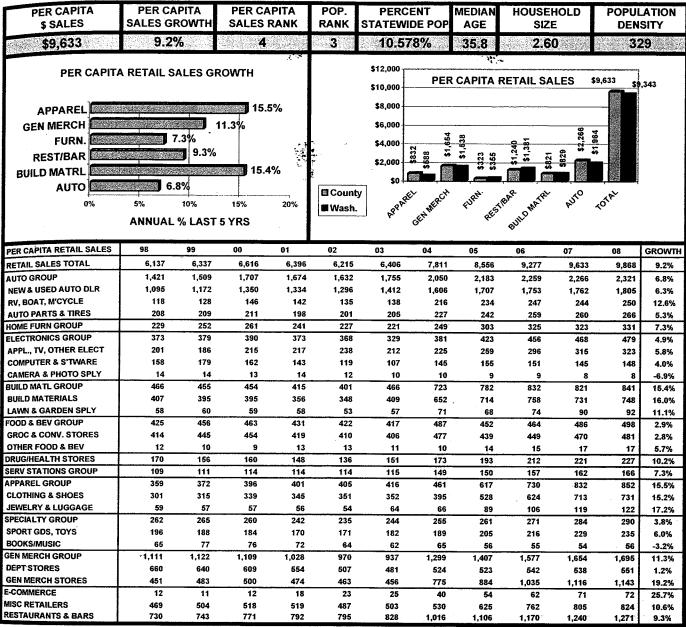
**SERV STATIONS GROUP** 

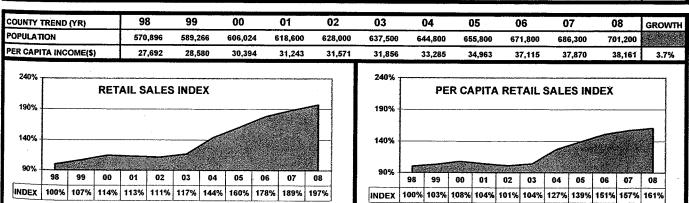
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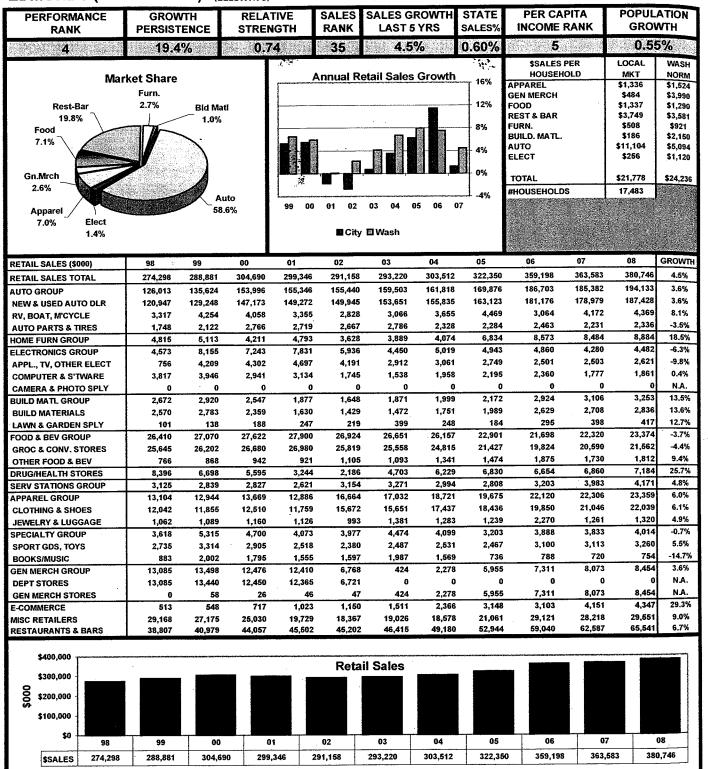


## **EDMONDS (SNOHOMISH)**

RATING (BELOW AVG)



#### **SALES REPORT & RANKINGS**



Summary: The Performance Rank of 4, measuring sales growth in the most recent year, is below avg. Over the past 10 yrs, the Growth Persistence Index (19.4%) has been low, while the 5 yr Relative Strength Ratio of 0.74 is below the state norm of 1.0. In total sales, the city's rank is 35, while the 5 yr Sales Growth has been 4.5%. Populatior Growth has averaged 0.55% over the past 5 yrs, compared to a statewide norm of 1.44%

Per Capita Sales are \$8,964, and have been growing at an annual rate of 4.0%. By comparison, total retail sales have been growing at an annual rate of 4.5%. Note: Growth Rates in far right column are annual for period 2002-2007. Sales data for 2008 are forecasts and subject to future adjustment.

TION

ΛH

% WASH NORM \$1,524 \$3,990 \$1,290 \$3.581 \$921

\$5,094 \$1,120 \$24,236

\$2,150

GROWN 4.5% 3.6% 3.6% 8.1% -3.5% 18.5% -6.3% -9.8% 0.4% N.A. 13.5% 13.6% 12.7% -3.7% -4.4% 9.4% 25.7% 4.8% 6.0% 6.1% 4.9% -0.7% 5.5% -14.7%

3.6%

N.A.

N.A.

29.3%

9.0%

6.7%

BOOKS/MUSIC

DEPT STORES

COMMERCE

MISC RETAILERS

GEN MERCH GROUP

GEN MERCH STORES

RESTAURANTS & BARS

22

330

330

13

735

978

50

340

339

1

14

685

1.034

45

315

315

18

633

1.114

39

313

312

26

498

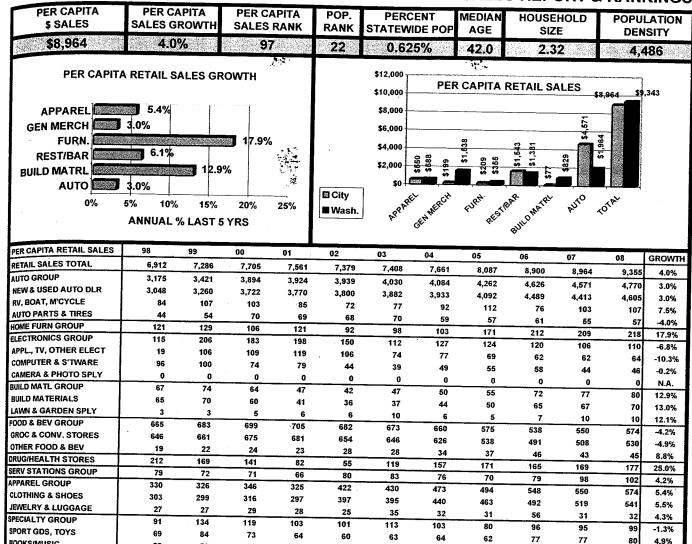
1,149

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## FDMONDS (SNOHOMISH)

#### **SALES REPORT & RANKINGS**



CITY TREND (YR)		9	8	99		00	01	02	03	(	)4	05		06	C	)7	0	R			
PULAT	TON			39	,686	39,6	47	39,54	1 39,59	0 39,466	39,580	3	9,620	39,860		10,360		0,560		0,700	
170%	T					······································			······································		170% -				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	***					
150% .	RETAIL SALES INDEX									150% -	PER CAPITA RETAIL SALES INDEX										
	l																				
130%											130% -									anne de la constante de la cons	
130% - 110% -											130% - 110% -										
	98	99	00								110% -										
110% -	98 100%	99 105%	00 111%	01 109%	02 106%	03 107%	04	05	06 07	08		98	99 (	0 01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08

40

172

170

29

465

1,146

50

11

0

11

38

481

1.173

40

57

57

60

469

1,241

18

149

149

79

528

1,328

0

20

181

181

77

722

1.463

a

18

199

199

102

696

1,543

Ω

19

208

208

107

726

1,610

-15.2%

3.0%

N.A.

N.A.

28.6%

8.4%

6.1%